

not isolated "beneath" and "between" the adjacent pair of the multiple surface structures. Outer plug 49a (FIG. 7i) of Choi et al. does not cover "part of top portions" of the adjacent pair.

The differences presented above show that Jeng et al. and Choi et al. do not disclose all of the elements of claim 1. Thus, claim 1 is patentable over Jeng et al. and Choi et al.

Accordingly, Application respectfully requests that the rejection of claim 1 be reconsidered and withdrawn and that claim 1 be allowed.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 4-11 and 32-53 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant believes that claims 4-11 and 32-52, as written, are in condition for allowance as indicated in the Notice of Allowability mailed 03/24/2003.

Claims 12-31

Claims 12-31 were canceled by the Examiner as indicated in the Notice of Allowability mailed 03/24/2003. Applicant respectfully requests that claims 12-31 be reinstated and reconsidered since examination of the application has resumed.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's representative at (612) 373-6969 to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743

Respectfully submitted,

THOMAS A. FIGURA

By his Representatives,

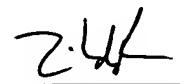
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Date 12-18-03

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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 15 day of December, 2003.

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